



**Homeland
Security**

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

I write to reply to your letter of January 29, 2019 regarding my invitation to testify before the House Committee on Homeland Security. As you know, I have never refused to testify before the Committee. To avoid any further confusion, I would like to reiterate that, although I am not available on February 6, 2019, I am available as early as the week of February 18 and I look forward to appearing before the Committee to discuss important border challenges and the statutory changes, authorities, tools and resources DHS needs to execute its border security mission.

I would also note that our offices have been attempting to find a mutually agreeable date to meet and I hope they can quickly find such a date and time. I can make myself available Friday of this week and am happy to provide additional options next week. I was surprised to hear your assertion in the press that I canceled a meeting with you on January 29, 2019, as we have no record of any meeting being confirmed for that date. As I was out of town and traveling to the border on January 29th, the proposed date offered by your office did not work and our staffs were still in the process of finding a mutually workable date. I look forward to sitting down with you in the near future. We have much to discuss.

I am sure you would agree that with so much at stake in the homeland and the significant challenges faced by the good men and women of DHS, it is vital that we work together in a professional and productive manner to not only find an appropriate date for me to testify before the Committee but to secure the homeland. As I have offered previously, please feel free to call me at any time at . Thank you for your support of DHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirstjen Nielsen".

Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary

Cc: The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member